JOHNN

LUCK EDGINTON

The valet took it in to his by prophetic parents, "Napoleon" Prince. Mr. Napoleon Prince having reakfast, it being only o'clock of a hot August morning. His sister, small and slim, with her hair dressed a la Josephine, and high-waisted frock, so that together they looked rather like an impression of the First Empire, was with him at the table. He passed the card to her with a silent laugh—not a smile—and she read the inscription. She bit into her red lower lip with little white teeth, and grew paler.

"Bring the sentleman up, Dapper," Dapper, who was really one of those incomparables so rare among the class that ministers, a complete fool, had noticed nothing of the Josephine girl's agitation. Descending to the lounge he found the visitor waiting in a seat beneath the palms. Meanwhile Napoleon was saying to his sis-

"There is really cause for nothing amusement here, Ellen," tapping the card.

She smiled, and helped herself to s There was shown into the room

tall, fair young man, burned red and brown by foreign suns. He wore flannel shirt and breeches, long boots the worse for wear, but scrupulously polished, a softly flaming tie, and carried a cowboy hat in a manicured hand. He had presumably made what con-cessions he was able to the conven-tions of a call by the boot-cleaning and the manicuring. There was about him, in spite of the Colonial on the an rir of English universities and creamy reciety. He good just inside the door, and bow it, as if uncertain of reception

"You may go, Dapnor," sald Napoleon to the servant, who withdrew. He leaned back on his wied chair invention."Then?" and looked at Mr. John Luck

"Very glad, indeed. Let me see -we met. I think, about three wee! rge, in Bung Creek, a remarkably nasty little mining town in North-vest Canada. Will you breakfast, or Will you breakfast, or good morning."

to compel me to disgorge? That will office boy played "Snap" with dummy, Negligent Housekeeper.

not be possible, I am afraid, since the and an inner room where, presumably, "You certainly have a collection is already scattered among was Mr. Allerby.

the wooden faced man, of the wooden faced ma hundred dealers in Europe and

Duck put his elbows on the break-Napoleon from a pair of dure-devil

"Let the Barney Collection hang! I want to be taken into part-

nersbip."
Napoleon did not reply, but turned to his sister. Ellen," he asked, "shall we?"

to scrape along on a peppercorn re-mittance from home."
"We'll take you into partnership."

She nodded.

Napoleon added. His incaution lerby and Weather to undertake it about the arrangement was superb. for him. I can plan, but I can't always do. My looked judicial, and replied that un-venture is exceeding our utmost ex-infirmity renders me so helpless, as doubtedly there was a case, a strong pectations. Business has fairly rushed well as bringing me into conspicuity. case—touching upon one or two sa- in to such actions. are not in London for nothing, Ellen and I, as you may surmise. We of

you my hands. Ellen-"I hope that Miss Prince," said Luck "may in future be able to

want to know your story, or your in these wretched temporary prem- Mr. Fowler, intecedents. You carry your birth- ises, I've all I can do to cope with it. Johnnie I mark. If the world has used you My partners are sending up our head burning in his pockets, did himself hardly, so much the better. You will clerk from the home branch directly, exceedingly well that night. He dined have no scruples about hitting back and I am shortly going to be joined in Piccadilly, at Maxim's. He took as I hit. Scruples of any sort must by Weather junior. If you have the property of the prop In the serve of any sort must by Weather junior. If you had come stall at a problem play, found it dult, and left it for a music hall. Had supset to us a forthight hence, we would the honesty; pride, but no princt have been delighted. As it is—" per at the Carlton, and so, merry, to the nesty; pride, but no princt have been delighted. As it is—" with regrets, the visitor rose, and held out his hand.

"I'm your man," replied Johnny ("I'm your man," said Napo-")" and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler said days on a high stool.

"I'will give you," Napoleon began in and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler said days on a high stool.

"I'will give you," Napoleon began in Piccadilly, at Maxim's. He took a stall at a problem play, found it dult, and left it for a music hall. Had supset to packet. His hands were trembling.

"Now then, little girl!" he savagely star horribly. Luck added:

"I have just come from an office adjured himself, He straightened up. Mind The Clothes haskets on the star horribly. Luck added:

"I have just come from an office adjured himself, He straightened up. With no response. He put his head with no response. He put his head with no response. He put his head after unch the following morning, orderly and quiet, but no clerk drove down. Luck sat down opposite, and away on a high stool.

"I'will give you," Napoleon began in and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler sat chin and weak eyes, was scratching in and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler sat chin and weak eyes, was scratching in and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler sat chin and weak eyes, was scratching in and opened the door of Mesars.

"I'will give you." Napoleon began in and looked round; everything was perhaps three minutes, Fowler sat chert with a proposed and weakers.

"I'will give you." Napo

To the little semi-paralyzed gentle. The question was asked as from with his boyish smile, "I'm a casual parent puzzle. In the first place, office boy played "snap" with dummy, Fowler began to play with the things the door, to put his head in again, as man with the strikingly Napoleonic one good fellow to another, and could sort of chap. I was in this block, gone the felt the blood creeping up in a on the desk.

Who are you then?" he asked at from the figure at the desk, "I'll tell him. Thanks awfully, if you can and a valet, was brought on the morning after his arrival a visiting card to play with his boyish smile, "I'm a casual parent puzzle. In the first place, office boy played "snap" with dummy. Fowler began to play with the things the door, to put his head in again, as if in response to some last remark furlous wave to his head.

"Who are you then?" he asked at from the figure at the desk, "I'll tell him. Thanks awfully, if you can well drop in here as anywhere else, lerby and Weather, or Fowler and a visiting card three peering round the door, a boy located by the ridor, and, passing, volunteered information. The parent puzzle. In the first place, office boy played "snap" with the things the door, to put his head in again, as if in response to some last remark furlous wave to his head.

"Who are you then?" he asked at from the flett the blood creeping up in a on the desk.

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"Too late! Cleared, by God!" he last.

In the felt the blood creeping up in a on the desk.

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"Too late! Cleared, by God!" he last.

"In the felt the blood of the felt the



"Then come and tell me what Al-"Glad to see you, Mr. Luck," said lerby says," Napoleon eyed him. Ludgate Circus. It was a block of "Inquisitive?" said he.

"Not a ha'porth."
"Good," replied

Luck stated a case.

told you in Bung Creek," she tongue. At the close of it he said, with a sound practice, and we're feel-to Luck, "that you were a fool that though reluctant to resort to the ing our way to the establishment of a law courts on the matter, he felt it London branch. Always move, grow, his duty to make an example of the plant, multiply—that's our motto. case, and wished to ask Messrs. Al- And a good one it is—eh?"
lerby and Weather to undertake it "Deuced excellent!" replied his

lient points—but that owing to press it alone. I wrote down to my of immediate business, the firm brothers yesterday—only yesteday it are never anywhere without purpose, would not be justified in endeavoring was—and I said: 'Find me some good in this undertaking I shall be head, to give their attention to it. He smart clerks, for I haven't time; and waxed confidential, leaning across his one of you must come up and join me

personal risks. Surely you you that though it goes sorely against working at tremendous pressure just the grain to say good-bye to an agree- now. I couldn't do you justice. Of Napoleon looked at him with a able client like this, we couldn't do course if I were one of those fellows you justice. I must be honest with who are all for grab, grab, I'd take it graphed like the flight of an arrow. You justice. I must be honest with who are all for grab, grab, I'd take it "May be, may be!" he agreed. "I you. We couldn't do you justice. and run it through somehow, just to see your view. Meanwhile, will you case is this. We're an old estabget a fee from you. I shouldn't care work, if necessary, blindfold?" lished country firm, very fine practice morally about winning. But I'm not vork, if necessary, blindfold?"

lished country firm, very fine practice morally about winning. But I'm not in the North, and we're just feeling that sort. No, sir! So I reluctantly "When I know you better," said Naour way to establishing a London say I must decline. You understand ofcon, "I shall, of course, give you branch. I'm here to feel the way, perfectly, I hope?"

and you are a gentleman. I don't worked as I am here tust now and "With many regrets more hard." You are a gentleman. I don't worked as I am here just now, and

"Good," replied Napoleon, "and the third floor. Luck mounted. A The collection will have been placed but less of faces than a more leisured sionlessly, ood morning."

Luck went out, hugging to his heart clerk opened to him, and went to see the backs of their desks. There is a in it.

The collection will have been placed but less of faces than a more leisured sionlessly, odd driver, probably—and left the key "Great to Luck went out, hugging to his heart clerk opened to him, and went to see the backs of their desks. There is a in it.

about your housekeeper, and an inner room where, presumably, its gather, and lodged at my saw a short, round man, growing a peculiarly dear to my professional toops the helped himself to fruit, bit was not nerves, but the poweless and more dealers in Europe and short complexion, in heart." He laughed at this, so Luck appearance of intense respectability, laughed too, and they became exceed. It was just two days late.

"Not out!" replied Luck.
"Don't come here again till you pressed indeed for time this after fulfill a long engagement.
"He was usbered—his card preced man had gone to bring the reasons," said Napoleon. noon, and I'm afraid I must treat you Luck ago tup like a man in a night-mixed up with you."

Luck's glance had found the man's Suppose Peasfood looked in! He missing.

"My hadron"

"My h I'm chockfull of work here-Luck stated a case.

"The fact is, I'm in a difficulty conover full, brimming over. These are
cerning this beastly Employers' Liatemporary premises only, and my
bility, and so on. My housekeeper, present staff is temporary only. Let
entirely through her own neglime explain to you—I don't see why
you shouldn't be told how matters The story rolled nimbly off his stand. We're a very old country firm ongue. At the close of it he said, with a sound practice, and we're feel-

> much interested visitor. alone. I wrote down ieak. I must have George up. George is "My dear-ah-Mr. Luck-I assure my youngest brother. As it is, I'm

"With many regrets, good-bye," said

man John Luck

Ma. Jo trusted with the theft of—say ducal door behind him. Very good, indeed, dry a regalfa. Another, with famous jewels Then let us hope Mr. Allerby sat "A belonging to a famous beauty; others, alone in the inner room. would in Amsterdam and Johannesburg, "Now, sir!" said Johanne Luck to life with illicit diamond buying. These himself, a grin on his lips and light less—things are sent, as soon as taken, in his eyes, "for the fun!"

His except the ordinary root to Allerby. through the ordinary post, to Allerby In he went . . . into dead at Luck saw what was in his mind re-and Fowler, who have been appointed lence, on a dead man. There sat a flected in his face, and showed a re-receivers. If flat enough, the jewels stiff bulk that had once been the fat volver muzzle above the desk, or what not are sent between card- Allerby, with his head and arms "Ah!" said Fowler. made like books, that when wrapped everything near sickening spurts of "Pay or hang."

up have all the appearance of books red. A smaahed inkpot lay upon the "Are you a Cosmopolitan?"

with their jutting covers. They are floor, near a broken walking stick. "No. sir. I'm an honest thief, who sent in a hundred ways. It is easier The coat was half ripped from the wouldn't go back on a mate."

and safer for two men to receive—body at the desk. There were signs "Evidently a raw hand," said Fowand two men of apparently respects. of a murderous stensels before the ble calling—than for one only. Most murder was done.

"My God!" said Luck involuntarily, giving you enough as it is."

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"My God!" said Luck involuntarily, giving you enough as it is."

"Boriously drunk, as some lords—a been sent now. When it is all gath—watchful, alive to the danger of his opened a little drawer, and extracted than most lords, as some lords—a than most lords.

Having done the house of a member, a dentist in Fitz—dead thief as involuntarily as he had it. He emptied the powder rapidly roy Square. He is pretty well a bogus addressed the Almighty, and touched on his tongue, and went on taking, a chean one, and if nations don't seen violent deaths in many forms out.

"Cure for nerves that I've had gave the story." a cheap one, and if patients don't never violent deaths in many forms out "Cure for nerves, that, I've had gave the story hastily, but one is, and the property, then, would be taken appearances been killed two or three that, would you, but I have. Shan't poleon counted the wash-leaft and there have been the second of the house. there is a workroom. In six hours, cold.

all the jewels could be unset, parted, Luck glanced round, and pulled it? You're Colonial, eh?"

and rendered safe to offer in certain himself back to his errand. A look "Curse small talk!" said Luck, markets known to the Cosmopolitans, at the high deak showed him the "Oh, curse anything you like! vided between the whole syndicate, empty. That is as the Cosmopolitans propose.

"The fact of their respectability their picked it up. It was an enamel waist- A mock came at the door. Peas and a condition of the solic then go to No. —a, Ludgate Circus, The Cosmopolitans would not choose his chair to look at his waisteen. All flat package on the table, and will see Allerby. Ask him if the firm will undertake a case for you—any kind of case you like. Call on your invention."

The fact of their respectability their picked it up. It was an enamel waist- A mock came at the door. Peas and a condition or continuous decimal to their respectability their picked it up. It was an enamel waist- A mock came at the door. Peas and a condition or continuous decimal to provide coat button.

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The fact of their respectability their picked it up. It was an enamel waist- A mock came at the door. Peas and a condition or continuous decimal to provide coat button.

The pushed the dead man back in "Poble, sir, he announced, inide a three buttons were on. He dropped drew. The package on the table, and with here. He will see Allerby and Weather. You to the office of Messrs. Fowler and bright boys for that work. They are the buttons were on. He dropped drew. The package on the table, and with here. He will see a case for you—any the case against your housekeeper, to write business letters relating to locked the door behind him, and took paper. Luck laid a finger on it.

"You to the office of Messrs. Fowler and bright boys for that work. They are the buttons were on. He dropped drew. The package on the table, and with here. In the pushed the dead man back in "Poble, th "And my part?"

Luck went out, hugging to his heart ther in, sit down, and never mind the hour of your cail. I love informalistics. You must have come over on gift. He walked to the Strand, which accounts for our not meeting on board. You had just remeeting on board. You had just referred of him. A very tail, thin, wooden-faced men him. A very tail, thin, wooden-faced him. A service in the walked in the heads of the head

or what not are sent between card- Allerby, with his head and arms board in legal envelopes, or in boxes flopped forward on the deak, and on

And the proceeds, of course, are di- panel slid back, and the aperture lug to stay? Because I've got an en-

"Lost!" said Luck, gritting his "Not necessary," answered Luck four o'clock. He asked for Mr. Prince

after a pause. "I dropped half of it and was shown up. Ellen was pourthree years ago, when I went under, ing tea, and received him with a welnot to disgrace the family."

"Are the clerks in Fowler's and Alierby's offices members of the profestions!" said Luck, gritting him
"When
teach. "Loat, by an hour or two!"
"With
the thought frenziedly, "Fowler!" pect."
"Are the clerks in Fowler's and Alierby's offices members of the profeston to disgrace the family."

"I think not." replied Napoleon.
"I think not." replied Napoleon.
"The fact of their respectability, their picked it up. It was an enamel walst."

A key

ered would probably be valuable. He what AlFive o'clock found Luck at No. —a,

"And my part?"

was rather pale under his tan when that is. See where greed leads you.

"In this case," said Napoleon, "in the lates at the from Allerby's and Fowler's offices," as nonchalant looking as ever. He I'd got directly I'd—said good-bye—

doorway showed that the office of replied Napoleon. "In two days took a "bus to Ludgate Circus—a to him."

He waved a hand. "You're goin.

Messra. Fowler and Fowler was on everything should have been raked in, harassed 'bus conductor can remember the referred to his victim expres
to say that I've cheated my or it

Question and answer came outquite

dry and cool.
"As I told you," said Fowler, "I wouldn't give a brass farthing for my

life now. I've lost the game. Un-His hands stopped moving about.

to the basement of the house, where hours ago. He was stiffening and have 'em again, though. You've got nadding and there is a workroom. In six hours, cold.

""" nerve, not nerves. Where'd you learn ment; then:

"Oh, curse anything you like! Gogagement.

"Within the next two minutes, I ex-

"Where?"

said Fowler. "That's greed, formation?" "Ah!"

"Great mistake in life," he prosed,

it was, very joyful at the idea of getting away twenty minutes carly— "Very pleased, indeed, sir," said Peas

-tidy up-get me 'at.' "I'm in the deuce of a hurry," toplied Luck, leaning against the innice door while Peaswood made the bury

"I'll just put me desk straigt.;

preparations. You don't come hack to lock up?" he threw out a feeler as they set lat

together. 'Mr. Fowler does it, sir," replied Peaswood. "He us'lly stays later":

Widently a raw hand," said Fow- Then, to make assurance Short, "I'm an old one, I could give sure, Mr. John Luck took little Person wood, solicitor's clerk, and made hits. gloriously drunk. He was as c unas some lords—a good deal drauter

Having done this in a kind, it is ly and condescending manne. Last taxl'd to the Ritz. Napoleon wit 2's

"Good, partner!" said he, widha his left hand out to grip Lucu And.
"Bravo, partner?" said to lose
phine girl, taking Luch's of sead between two as soft as rose I-a -a. "Now." said Napoleon hasti'y, "you

must got. Get as fast as you son get To-morrow morning there'll be a niv "It's not polite to ask," replied alive, and that clerk will have to description pat. Catch the night loat. A knock came at the door. Peas- and so across to Parts. Lie very the wood looked in.

"Post, sir," he announced, laid a three weeks time. Meantime we stay He raused.

"Any questions now?" "Yes," replied Luck. "How did you know of the Cosmopolitans' plans? What are your methods of gaining bi-

He referred to his victim express to say that I've cheated my ovice brotherhood, using you as cat's paw, The answer to that is-four years

> anger among the Cosmopolitans, because this widely organized scheme has seemingly smashed. The jewels! The jewels! Where are the jewels? you in Paris, we'll both be rich men, Ellen, give him money, and send him

> away. Glancing at the pair, he wheeled away into the next room, letting the folding doors fall to after him. Luck was left gazing at Ellen across the table. She rose, and unlocking a desk, produced banknotes, which she counted and gave to him.

"Fifty," she said. He still looked.

"What, more?" she asked, smiling "Ellen," said Johnnie Luck, fer-vently, "I worship you-" "People do," said Ellen. "I wish

'-and I want those little hands of yours kept out of all risks. Now your brother and I are partners—"
"Silly boy!" said Ellen to Johnnie "Go to Paris. Wait for us. We'll adventure gloriously there, Here's the fifty.

Besides the fifty pounds, she decided on giving Johnnie Luck some-thing else. A kiss. The kiss of Luck's life up till that moment, Thus she sent him away happy.

For little Mr. Peaswood, too, was I happiness of short life. About eleven o'clock in the warmth of a perfect August evening, he managed to convey himself home. It was a goo-world, my boysh. Never had such a time wiy a toff. Shime said toff could'n jine in's own treat to the pickshers afterwards. Got an engigement. Engigement, Engi-! Rich! that ish! 'ave shown 'im engigement We'd 'ave mide an evernin of it! ave interdooced 'im to a little bit o' Lotfe! We are one of the boysh. We care for nothin'. Not even for an absent landlady's injunction for comers printed in pencil on card-board, hanging from the gas bracket by the front door:

